

## Mild High Blood Pressure Treated with New Drug

A new drug, mebutamate, has proved useful in the treatment of patients with mild forms of high blood pressure and "may have broad potential application," according to an article in the September 22 *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Drs. A. C. Corcoran and Hubert F. Loyke, Cleveland, reported results obtained with the drug in treating 40 women between 35 and 60 years of age suffering early, mild high blood pressure or high blood pressure caused by hardening of the arteries.

These two types of high blood pressure are believed to be the most common among patients treated by physicians in office practice, they said, and a growing body of evidence and opinion favors treatment of such cases.

Mebutamate is a derivative of meproamate, a widely used tranquilizer, the authors said, but mebutamate is "several times more effective" in lowering arterial pressure.

Mebutamate lowers blood pressure through a calming action on control centers in the brain and spinal cord, the researchers said. Over-activity of these centers characterizes the so-called "neurogenic" phase of the early stage of the disease as well as most cases of established hypertension, they said.

Mebutamate should be considered a mild blood pressure depressant and is not indicated for patients

with severe, progressive or complicated disease who require a more powerful drug, the authors said.

The drug has a short term of action and must be taken three or four times a day, they said. It also causes sedation in some patients, they said.

However, no serious side effects characteristic of other antihypertensive drugs resulted from mebutamate during a period of nearly one year, they said.

Mebutamate "would seem a safer, if somewhat less predictably effective agent" than other currently used drugs for initial treatment of hypertensives who do have unusually severe, unduly complicated, or rapidly progressive disease, they said.

The researchers are affiliated with the hypertensive clinic, division of medicine, St. Vincent Charity Hospital.

## Obesity, Social Class and Mental Ills Related

(Continued from Page 32)

obesity and the preoccupation with individual psychological factors that has stemmed from the study of upper-class obese persons may not be justified when considering the numerically far more important lower-class groups, they said.

"Perhaps, for example, simple but energetic information programs directed to the appropriate groups could achieve far more than has been thought possible," they said.

"Agencies for this purpose are plentiful. Well-baby clinics and child care centers deal with precisely the social groups in which the problem is most pronounced and with just those persons who determine the family eating patterns. Union, company, and municipal health programs reach a significant part of the men in the crucial social classes.

"A program directed toward these groups could bring the control of obesity, for the first time, within the capacity of traditional public health measures. And the economy of shifting the emphasis from individual medical to public health measures would make an informed large-scale attack on the problem feasible."

The data which formed the basis for these conclusions were collected as part of the Midtown Manhattan Study, a comprehensive survey of the prevalence of mental illness, the authors said. The segment of the population involved in the overall study was a group of 110,000 men and women between the ages of 20 and 59 who occupied a certain residential area of New York City, they said.

REVIEW OF ORAL HYPOGLYCEMIC AGENTS—W. S. Metzler, *Canad. Med. Assn. J.*, 87:346 (Aug. 18) 1962.

This review embraces early development of oral hypoglycemic drugs. Possible errors in administration of too low initial dosage in the sulfonylureas have been pointed out. It is indicated that these hypoglycemic agents are established now as a form of therapy in a small group of diabetics. It is of value to the physician to learn the basic rules regarding their use.

## RALEIGH HILLS HOSPITAL\*

Member of the American Hospital Association  
Recognized by the American Medical Association

**EXCLUSIVELY for the TREATMENT of  
ALCOHOL ADDICTION  
by Conditioned Reflex and Adjuvant Methods**

### MEDICAL STAFF:

John R. Montague, M.D.      Merle M. Kurtz, M.D.  
Norris H. Perkins, M.D.  
John W. Evans, M.D., Consulting Psychiatrist

### ADMINISTRATORS:

Larrea A. Haydon      Jean B. Tanner

## RALEIGH HILLS HOSPITAL

6050 S.W. Old Schools Ferry Road  
Portland 7, Oregon

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 366  
Telephone: CYPRESS 2-2641

\*FORMERLY RALEIGH HILLS SANITARIUM, INC.